



Washington, D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

4 October 1983

US Imports of Soviet Prison-Produced Goods

1. Attached is a list of Soviet industries which, in part, use forced labor and produce goods for export. We cannot determine the contribution forced labor makes to either the total output or exports in each industry, nor can we provide a list of brand names or products.

2. We know that in 1982 about 80 percent of US imports from the USSR were accounted for by metals, chemical and chemical products (mainly ammonia), fertilizers, furs and fur raw materials, and alcoholic beverages. The biggest single item was ammonia--39 percent--which was imported as part of the Occidental-USSR Fertilizer Exchange Agreement.

3. Some of the items we import are probably produced by forced labor although the amount of US imports of Soviet goods produced by prisoners is unlikely to be large. Last year US imports from the Soviet Union totalled \$229 million (less than 0.1 of 1 percent of total U.S. imports). Forced labor comprises about 3 percent of the total Soviet labor force and accounts for only a small proportion of total Soviet production of the listed items; and, presumably, a correspondingly small share of exports. We judge, therefore, that only a small proportion of US imports from the USSR consists of prison-produced goods. We have no means of establishing whether any given shipment of goods imported by the US contains products manufactured by prisoners.

Attachment:
As stated.

This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] of the Soviet Economy Division, Office of Soviet Analysis and [redacted] of the Office of Global Intelligence. Questions and comments are welcome and may be addressed to the Chief, Soviet Economy Division, [redacted]

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ATTACHMENT

CIA has compiled a list of industries ^{UNCODED} forced labor is reportedly used ^{products} in which

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We have no way of measuring what proportion of the goods listed is produced by forced laborers, nor can we determine what share of exports is prison-produced.

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I. Wood Products

- lumber
- furniture
- casings for clocks
- cabinets for radio and TV sets
- wooden chess pieces
- wooden souvenirs
- wooden crates for fruit and vegetables
- cardboard containers

II. Electronics

- cathode ray tube components
- resistors

III. Glass Products

- camera lenses
- glassware
- chandeliers

IV. Automotive Products

- auto parts
- wheel rims
- parts for agricultural machinery

V. Mining/Ore Processing

- gold
- iron
- aluminum
- coal and peat
- uranium
- asbestos
- limestone
- construction stone and gravel

VI. Clothing

- coats, gloves, boots
- buttons and zippers

VII. Petroleum Products and Chemicals

VIII. Food Products

- tea

IX. Miscellaneous

- brick and tile
- watch parts
- wire fences, mattresses, screens
- steel drums and barrels
- lids for glass jars
- plumbing equipment
- storage battery cases
- concrete products
- electric plugs/cords
- electric heaters
- electric motors
- pumps
- woven bags

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